17 December 1969

General Taylor,

Vance's recommendation and Proctor's OK constitute a worthwhile step forward in CIA's involvement in COINS.

However, if the proposal is a go/no-go item depending on another agency volunteering to make the file available through their computer system, then I have grave doubts as to its success.

First, the COINS SubSystem Managers (see ▢ notes) are not in a mood to be generous in taking on someone else's files. DIA is particularly edgy due to budget cuts; NSA has not committed themselves because, after all, ▢ is pushing this. However, NSA has already agreed to take the Air Movement files back from DIA and may feel that enough is enough. We'll see what happens.   25X1

25X1

Second, history has demonstrated that if the file is built and maintained by CIA then the best place to keep it is CIA. (DIA discovered this rule on the Air Movements files). Theoretically we should be able to handle remote maintenance etc. , but in fact we don't. The state of the ADP art just doesn't hack it. But CIA can't/won't make the file available for more than 3 hours per day, thereby reducing its usefulness considerably.

- 2 -

One can imagine that this is an opportunity for SNS to step in and announce that State will join COINS and take the CRS/AEGIS file as its responsibility. This would give [   ] some   25X1 relief on his continuing cry about "redundant indexing." It would also put him in the hardware business and that might be awkward at this time.

Another related thought: If CIA continues to resist going on-line for more than three hours a day, and if NPIC doesn't come back in, and if the PFIAB recommendation to delay evaluation of COINS for two years is accepted by IHC, then won't COINS simply become a link between computers at DIA and NSA whose principal purpose is to serve DIA analysts with air movements data ?

Neil